

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

Claims 1-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently amended) A retractable ramp system comprising:
a frame including longitudinal guide members;
a carriage extending laterally between and longitudinally moveable along the guide members;
a ramp pivotably coupled to the carriage and movable between stowed and deployed positions;
a motor coupled to the frame; frame, the motor including a drive shaft defining an axis;
a drive assembly coupled to the motor and including a drive pulley defining a plurality of axially-extending openings, a drive member driven by the drive pulley and coupled to the carriage, and a release assembly for engaging and disengaging the drive pulley and the motor,
the release assembly including a first collar axially slidably along the drive shaft and including a pair of axially-extending pins, the pins selectively received by at least some of the plurality of openings in the drive pulley to rotatably couple the drive pulley to the drive shaft, the release assembly also including a second collar coupled to the drive shaft for rotation therewith between the first collar and the drive pulley, the second collar defining openings through which the pins extend, the motor operable to move the ramp between the stowed and deployed positions when engaged with the drive pulley; and
a manual control assembly including a bearing block moveable under manual control along one of the guide members to deploy the ramp when the motor and the drive pulley are disengaged, disengaged, wherein the drive pulley freely rotates upon the drive shaft when the release assembly disengages the drive pulley from the motor.
48. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 47, wherein the carriage includes bearing members movable along the guide members, and wherein the bearing block engages one of the bearing members to urge the carriage along the guide members during manual movement of the ramp toward the deployed position.

49. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 47, wherein the manual control assembly includes a manual crank assembly including a handle, a pulley, and a cable coupled to the pulley and the bearing block, and wherein rotation of the handle winds the cable upon the pulley to pull the bearing block along the one of the guide members to deploy the ramp.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently amended) The retractable ramp system of claim 51, ~~the 47, the~~ release assembly further including:

a stop collar coupled to an end of the drive shaft;
a biasing member positioned between the stop collar and the second collar and biasing the second collar toward the drive pulley to thereby bias the pins into engagement with the at least some of the plurality of openings in the drive pulley.

53. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 52, wherein the first collar defines a groove, the release assembly further including:

a release actuator including at least one pin received by the groove; and
a release cable coupled to the release actuator and manually operable to overcome the biasing member and move the release actuator pin and, thereby, the first collar, axially away from the drive pulley to disengage the drive pulley from the drive shaft.

54. (Previously presented) The retractable ramp system of claim 47, wherein the bearing block remains substantially stationary relative to the guide member during movement of the ramp toward the deployed position by the motor when the motor is engaged with the drive pulley.

Claims 55 – 60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently amended) A retractable ramp system for a vehicle having a floor, the retractable ramp system comprising:

a frame including longitudinal guide members;

a carriage extending laterally between and longitudinally moveable along the guide members;

a motor operable to move the carriage along the guide members;

a ramp pivotally coupled to the ramp carriage for movement therewith between stowed and deployed positions, the ramp including a substantially planar support surface and lips extending substantially orthogonally to the support surface and longitudinally along outer edges of the ramp, the support surface defining a cutout along an inboard end of the ramp; and

a ramp flap having an inboard end pivotally coupled adjacent to the floor and an outboard end, the outboard end including a plurality of rollers that ride along the support surface during movement of the ramp platform between the stowed and deployed position, and that fall off of the support surface and drop into the cutout when the ramp platform reaches the deployed position, wherein the ramp flap provides a transition surface for movement between the support surface and the vehicle ~~floor~~, floor, wherein the plurality of rollers includes a pair of outboard rollers and at least one inboard roller, wherein at least some of the rollers are coupled to the ramp flap by a substantially wedge-shaped bracket, and wherein during movement of the ramp platform from the deployed position toward the stowed position, the wedge-shaped brackets engage the ramp platform to urge the ramp flap upwardly and position the rollers for engagement with the support surface.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently amended) The retractable ramp system of claim 62, wherein 61, wherein the ramp platform includes a pair of wear plates disposed on the support surface for engagement with the wedge-shaped brackets during movement of the ramp platform from the deployed position toward the stowed position.